



PATENT
Docket No.: 19603/2760 (CRF D-2404)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Wu et al.)
Serial No. : 09/350,393)
Cnfrm No. : 7999)
Filed : July 9, 1999)
For : METHOD OF MAKING WATER STRESS OR)
SALT STRESS TOLERANT TRANSGENIC)
CEREAL PLANTS)

Examiner:
Gary Benzion
Art Unit:
1638

9
6/19/01

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the April 24, 2001, written restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect Group I (i.e., claims 1-18), drawn to a method for conferring tolerance to salt stress and drought stress comprising transforming a monocot plant with an expression cassette comprising at least one ABRC unit, a minimal promoter, and a DNA molecule that increases tolerance to salt stress and drought stress in plants, with traverse.

However, applicants submit that all groups of invention identified in the outstanding office action are closely related and, therefore, would require common areas of search and consideration. Accordingly, no benefit is derived from maintaining the restriction requirement and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that the claims of Groups I, II, and III should be examined on the merits at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

June 7, 2001

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.	
June 7, 2001	Ruth R. Smith
Date	Ruth R. Smith